

Spark Gap

Volume 21, Issue 12, December 2004



*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 835
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Shocking Truth About BPL

Mike Sercher, WA9FDO Presentation at December 18th Meeting

Mike Sercher, WA9FDO will present a comprehensive program on BPL (broadband over powerlines) at our Saturday, December 18, 2004 meeting. As an

amateur radio operator and an employee of Indianapolis Power and Light Company, Mike brings a unique perspective to this new and potentially harmful new technology. The MARC meeting begins at 8 a.m. in the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center at 1000 Hospital Road in Franklin, IN.
by Jack, W8ISH

Background Information

On October 14, 2004 the Federal Communications Commission adopted new rules

for Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. The stated purpose of the new rules is to encourage the deployment of BPL systems as an additional way for consumers to gain access to broadband services while safeguarding licensed radio services against harmful interference.

In the December 2004 issue of QST, David Sumner, K1ZZ stated the above and also states why Amateur Radio as a whole is not happy with these rule changes.

“Season's Greetings”

David Sumner also writes that the burden of identifying BPL as the source of harmful interference falls to those of us who are licensed to use the radio spectrum. For this reason it is imperative that we who are licensed must follow these proceedings, rules and rules changes in order to ensure that Amateur

Radio maintains the standards we have come to know and use in our everyday life. ■

Club Dues for 2005

Club dues are now due for 2005. Please see the club treasurer, Brenda Haler, KC9EBL, at the December meeting and pay your club dues at that time. Full member dues are \$18.00 per year for membership in MARC.

Full members are those who have a valid amateur radio license. Full members may vote and hold office. Associate members are those who are licensed and/or unlicensed without the privilege of voting and/or holding license. Associate member dues are \$10.00 per year.

MARC also has a category for family members. Family members are persons related to and living in the same household as a full member.

Family members may not vote or hold office.

Another category of membership is available. Honorary Lifetime Members may be nominated at any regular meeting. Such nominations must be made by a full member of MARC. This status is intended to be an exceptional honor, in recognition of especially meritorious and distinguished contributions of the nominee of the club. A majority vote of members present and voting is required to confer this status.

An Honorary Lifetime Member shall pay no dues and shall retain all the privileges of full membership. A Dues Exempt Membership is also available. Please see our Treasurer for details. ■

Ham Radio Delivers The Toys

...from the ARRL Newsletter, December, 2004



With time still to spare and with the help of key "relay" service by local radio amateurs, the ARRL holiday toy drive has collected truckloads of toys---1650 and counting. The drive, which is folding into the United Way's White Doves Holiday Project (see web site address below) aims to brighten the holidays for children displaced or left homeless by the hurricanes that ravaged Florida earlier this year.

"The toy drive had snowballed and taken on a life of its

own," says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, who spearheaded the ham radio effort.

"Hundreds of groups, clubs and individuals have responded with such energy and cheer that it's already a great holiday season. People just kept going past Thanksgiving and provided more help for the kids than initially imagined for such a simple enterprise." Pitts says the effort generated a lot of goodwill for the Amateur Radio community as well.

Boxes full of toys from radio amateurs

Dave Spoelstra, N9KT, returns from Florida

Dave Spoelstra, N9KT, has returned from Florida after working for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) these past three months. He was originally to stay only three weeks in Florida working for FEMA during the recovery from the devastating hurricanes that hit the state in August and September.

FEMA gave Dave many things to do during his stay with them and especially an experience of a lifetime. We should thank Dave for his willingness to endure the heat, rain and bugs to help those in need during the aftermath of the worst hurricane season in history.

nationwide have been pouring in to the United Way of Martin County Office in Stuart, Florida. As of November 23, more than 190 clubs, groups and individuals had contributed either toys or checks. Cash donations total nearly \$5000, and even more toys and contributions continue arriving daily.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) members have helped transport toys from the United Way office to a storage area at the Martin County Fairgrounds. There, volunteers will sort the toys for distribution to needy families on December 20 and 21.

"We continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of the ham radio operators," said Carol Hodnett, director of the United Way Volunteer and Community Resource Center, which coordinates the White Doves Holiday Project. "We cannot thank ARRL and its members enough for choosing to support White Doves and the children it serves."

Bill and Nancy Deacon, KD4HST and

KD4HSS, are not only ham radio operators but longtime White Doves Holiday Project volunteers and, this year hurricane victims as well. The Deacons will help to sort toys and assist families on distribution days. Bill Deacon also will hand out turkeys and hams. The Deacons' house was flooded during the

storms, and they have been living in a FEMA-provided mobile home while repairs are made.

<[http://www.martinvolunteers.org/white doves/](http://www.martinvolunteers.org/white_doves/)>

***"Over 1650
toys have been
collected to
date."***

We should all think that what we do as volunteers can mean to others in need.

...Bob N9SIU

Note: NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) 2004 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook called for 12 to 15 tropical storms, with six to eight becoming hurricanes, and two to four of these becoming major hurricanes. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30; the peak of the season from mid-August through mid-October.

Officers

President:
Ernest Clark,
KB9SKI

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Treasurer:
Brenda Haler,
KC9EBL

Repeater Trustee:
Matt Payne,
KB9JUE

Spark Gap Editor:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

What the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club Has to Offer:

How it all began.

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club was founded over 20 years ago, in order to promote amateur radio, and provide resources for new and experienced hams alike. Over the past 20 years, we have remained one of the largest and most active amateur radio organizations in this part of the state. Our club is changing and expanding constantly, and we expect to maintain our status of leadership well into the future. The club provides many benefits and resources to area amateurs.

The club maintains a 2-meter repeater in Franklin, Indiana. This repeater is open to all licensed radio amateurs, but to use the autopatch and additional features, club membership is required.

The club maintains an APRS digipeater on the frequency of 144.39 MHz. This digipeater allows local hams to send packets to the worldwide APRS network.

The club provides annual amateur radio classes, to encourage new growth and participation in our hobby.

The club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 PM local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline.

Benefits of Membership

Membership in the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club has many benefits. Some of them include:

Autopatch Access. The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club repeater has an autopatch, allowing members to place personal calls via the repeater.

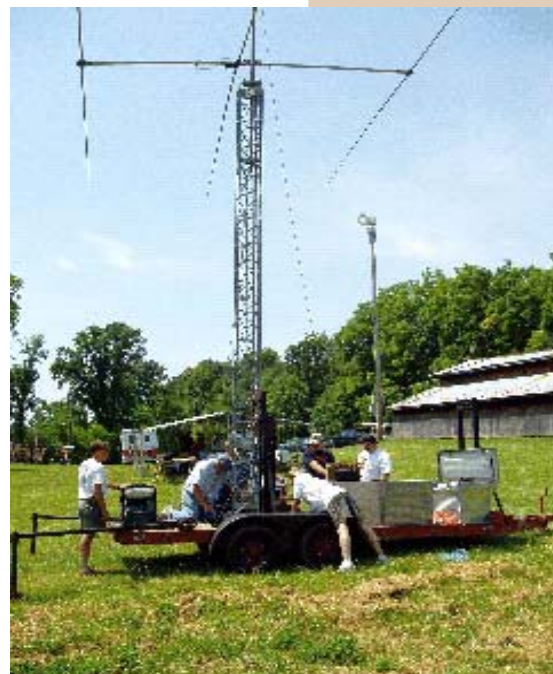
Monthly Newsletter. The Spark Gap, our monthly newsletter, will help keep you informed of the latest club and amateur radio related news.

Activities. Each month, our activities director arranges a special guest or demonstration. These give members first hand access to some of the newest and most exciting facets of amateur radio. Additionally, our special events give you the perfect chance to get out and enjoy the hobby with other operators, and help the public at

Amateur Radio Testing

Interested in getting your amateur radio license? The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings.

This is the perfect opportunity for you or someone you know to get that amateur license, or upgrade to a higher-class license. Our Volunteer Examiner team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any test necessary. Study hard, and then come to the meeting. Our VE Team is eager to serve.



Field Day 2004

*“Happy
Holidays”*

the same time!

Help and Support. The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club's members are very diverse, and bring a vast amount of knowledge with them to every meeting. Whether fixing an antenna or considering a new rig, you will find the experience of our group an invaluable asset.

Are you a member of ARRL?

If so, and if your dues for ARRL are also due, our club treasurer can help you renew your membership. MARC will receive money from ARRL for any MARC member renewing their ARRL membership. If you are not a member of ARRL you can also start your membership through the club and MARC will receive money from ARRL for you joining.

**WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/146.235
MHz
151.4 Hz PL**

Up Coming Indiana Hamfests in 2005

February 26, 2005

Cabin Fever Hamfest - LaPort Amateur Radio Club
LaPorte, Indiana
<http://www.k9jsi.org>

March 12, 2005

Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association
Terre Haute, Indiana
<http://www.w9uuu.org>

March 26, 2005

Michigan City Amateur
Radio Club, Michigan City
<http://www.w9ly.org>

April 2, 2005

Columbus Amateur Radio
Club
Columbus
for info e-mail: carc@yahoo.com



Watch this newsletter for additional information on these hamfests and on the 2005 Dayton hamfest. We will try and provide a complete list of activities, testing information, talk-in frequencies, and other items of interest.



Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131. See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.



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317.887.2558

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Thursday Night Supper Club

The MARC Thursday night supper club will take some time off during the holidays. We will meet at Sister's Place at Madison and Terrace Avenues in Indianapolis on December 16th and reconvene on January 6th at Number One Wok on Fairview Road and S.R. 135 in Greenwood. See you there!